



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian  
Northern District of New York

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CONTACT: Richard S. Hartunian or

Rick Belliss

(518) 431-0247

## PRESS RELEASE

Albany, New York —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and James Parmley, U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of New York, today announced that ROBERT BELL, age 36, of Kingston, New York, pled guilty on December 2, 2010 in United States District Court in Albany before the Honorable David N. Hurd to a one count Indictment charging him with failing to update his New York State sex offender registration information.

In connection with his plea, BELL admitted the following in a written plea agreement and during his plea proceedings:

On or about May 17, 1994, ROBERT BELL was convicted in Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California of the felony offense of Assault with Intent to Commit Rape in violation of Section 220 of the California Penal Code. BELL was sentenced to two years of imprisonment. Under the laws of California (as well as the laws of New York State if BELL resided in New York), BELL was required to register as a sex offender upon his conviction, and to update his sex offender registration information if he changed addresses. In addition, as a result of this conviction, BELL was required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act.

BELL initially registered as a sex offender in the State of California following his release from prison. Between March 31, 2008 and June 17, 2009, the defendant signed and filed numerous change of address forms (via form SS-8102S) that reflected BELL's local moves within the Long Beach, California area. BELL'S last written updating of his address information in California occurred on or about June 17, 2009 wherein he notified the California Department of Justice (via form SS-8102S) that he was moving from one address in Long Beach, California to an apartment within the Long Beach, California area. The change of address forms signed and filed by BELL in California explained BELL's duties as a sex offender and advised BELL that if he moved outside of California, he would be required to register in the new state within ten (10) working days of establishing residence. On each of the change of address forms filed in California by BELL, BELL signed his name indicating that he understood all of his duties as a sex offender, including his duty to notify authorities of a change in his address.

In or about March, 2010 BELL moved from his residence in the Long Beach, California area to 3 Garraghan Drive, Apartment 1304, Kingston, New York. Once in Kingston, New York, BELL lived in the aforementioned apartment until September 10, 2010. On September 10, 2010 federal investigators executed a search warrant at the aforementioned apartment. Simultaneous to the search warrant execution, BELL was encountered walking from the apartment towards the apartment building's parking lot. Located within Apartment 1304 at 3 Garraghan Drive were various articles of clothing and personal effects belonging to BELL.

On September 10, 2010 BELL was interviewed by investigators. BELL told investigators that in or about April, 2010 he rode a bus from Long Beach, California to Kingston, New York wherein he began living at 3 Garraghan Drive, Apt. 1304. BELL also told investigators that in or about May, 2010 he began working at a pet supply store in Kingston, New York and that he was scheduled to work at the pet store on the day of his arrest. BELL further admitted that once he departed Long Beach, California he did not update his sex offender registration information in California nor did he ever register in New York.

A review of New York's sex offender registry records shows that prior to September 10, 2010 BELL never registered as a sex offender within the State of New York. Additionally, records show that from June, 2009 up until September 10, 2010 (the date on which BELL was arrested by federal authorities for the instant offense) BELL did not update his registration information in California or New York.

Sentencing was scheduled by Judge Hurd for April 22, 2011, at 2 p.m. in U.S. District Court in Utica. BELL faces a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment. He also faces a fine of up to \$250,000.00. BELL was detained pending his sentencing.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Marshals Service.

LOCAL CONTACT:

Rick Belliss  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
Tel: (518) 431-0247